



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER PLED GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

TUCSON, ARIZONA – United States Attorney's office announced that Gabriel C. Noriega (DOB 12-20-73) pled guilty today to federal drug charges. A resident of Rio Rico, Arizona, Gabriel C. Noriega admitted that on August 17, 2000 he Possessed with Intent to Distribute 260 pounds of Marijuana in Rio Rico.

Having pled guilty to the marijuana violation before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. Carruth, the defendant faces from 48 to 66 months in jail when he is sentenced before U.S. District Court Judge John M. Roll on August 10, 2001.

Gabriel C. Noriega is a former Santa Cruz County Deputy.

The investigation that led to the indictment was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Customs, Office of Investigation- Nogales, Drug Enforcement Administration and Santa Cruz County Metro Task Force. The case is being handled by James T. Lacey, U. S. Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

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